

Campus Girl Scouts enhance lives of children in community

By KATHY PETERS
Staff Writer

When Jean DeSaix's home caught on fire last year, 500 boxes of cookies were smoked.

That's because, among her activities as a professor on campus, DeSaix sponsors the Carolina Campus Girl Scouts.

And for the 10 members of the group, being a Girl Scout means more than spring cookie sales.

Carolina Campus Girl Scouts is not a troop. Instead, it's a service organization, a support group for past Girl Scouts and a mentor group for local scout troops, according to sophomore Julie Gammill, group leader.

Gammill has been a scout for 11 years. When she enrolled as a freshman in the fall of 1987, she already had it in mind to found the organization.

"My senior year of high school, I had this crazy, wild idea that I would like to do scouts the rest of my life," Gammill said. She saw an article about campus scout groups in a leadership magazine and liked the idea.

When she got to UNC last fall, she posted fliers and set up an initial meeting. DeSaix, who leads a local scout troop, saw the flier and offered to be the group's adviser. Several people came to the meeting, and Gammill found herself heading a group.

They got off to a shaky start. By the year's end, there were four active members.

Since then, more interest and recruiting by group members has increased membership to 10.

Many of the group's members joined because they felt the same need as Gammill — the need to continue their work in scouts.

Freshman Sally Causey agreed. She found out about UNC's group her senior year in high school and joined this fall. "I've been a scout since the second grade," Causey said. "I think that if I didn't have

Area shelter to benefit from show

By ASHLEY CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

The John Denver concert at the Smith Center next Monday will not only provide Christmas entertainment but will also help Chapel Hill's Inter-Faith Council (IFC) raise money for renovating its shelter.

"This will be the first benefit concert to be held at the Smith Center," said Charles Lockee, spokesman for Smith Center. "All of the concert's proceeds after expenses will go to the Inter-Faith Council. They should make several dollars a ticket."

Buying tickets isn't the only way people can help. "In addition, they are asking that everyone who comes to the concert bring a can of food, which will help with the costs of their community kitchen," Lockee added. "They will have boxes at all the doors for the canned food."

The Village Companies Foundation, sponsor of the John Denver Christmas concert, is making it possible for the concert to benefit the IFC.

"When the Smith Center came to us with the proposal to sponsor the concert, we saw it as an opportunity to help the Inter-Faith Council's shelter project," said Jim Heavner, president of the Village Companies, which owns publications such as The Village Advocate. "It is a good opportunity to support a community charity."

The money raised from the concert will go toward the IFC's year-long funds drive for creating a shelter and community kitchen, said Bernard Segal, vice president for development of the IFC.

"We will use the canned food at the shelter and community kitchen and to help needy families who don't use the shelter," Segal said.

"We're now using the old Municipal Building on the corner of Rosemary and Columbia streets, and it looks like it will be chosen as the permanent site for the shelter," he said.

He said the IFC has been using the building in an unrenovated form. "It's in dilapidated conditions," he said. "The cost of renovating it will be \$550,000. We will provide \$350,000, and the town will provide \$200,000."

The Village Companies Foundation would like to sponsor an annual benefit concert at this time of year if this concert goes well, Heavner said. The foundation sponsors a benefit Fourth of July fireworks show and concert each year at Kenan Stadium.

The ticket sales for the John Denver concert are going fine, Heavner said. "Since the Smith Center is so big, we don't expect to sell out. I would like to see about 8,000 people come to the concert," he said.

About 3,000 tickets have been sold already. Tickets are \$15 each and are being sold at the Smith Center box office and all Ticketron outlets. The Smith Center box office accepts cash only.

Campus Group Focus

this group here, I'd be lost."

Causey is so enthusiastic about the group that she's writing letters to the national Girl Scout organization to persuade them to form more groups on college campuses.

UNC's group is one of the few in North Carolina, as far as Gammill knows. Meredith College added a chapter this fall, and the Carolina Campus Girl Scouts helped them by sharing ideas and suggestions.

It is not necessary to be a former scout or to be female to be in the group. Carolina Campus Girl Scouts has had both non-scouts and males in the past. In fact, Gammill said she would like to see more male members in the group, which she sees as a possible outlet for male students who like spending time with children.

This year, all members are former Girl Scouts. "We're all really different people, but we have a common bond," Causey said. "That sounds really goofy, but it's true."

Many of the students help troops

of younger Girl Scouts in the area or in their hometowns. They are a resource, so if a local troop needs an aide or someone to help during a special event, the troop leader can call one of Carolina Campus Girl Scouts' members.

The students also work on group service projects. Last week, they visited the pediatrics ward of North Carolina Memorial Hospital and brought Christmas paper chains. Each day until Christmas, children can tear one link off and see how far away the holiday is.

In November, they helped


younger Girl Scouts celebrate the birthday of their national founder, Juliette Low. One member even dressed up as Low and convinced the girls that she was over 110 years old.

For now, the group is small, but Gammill hopes it will grow to 25 members in the next few years. She said one of the group's problems is the competition from the plethora of campus organizations active in service projects.

The group's main problem, according to Gammill, is lack of publicity and awareness. "A lot of

people don't even know we exist," she said. "They don't even know what Carolina Campus Scouts does."

Last year, she changed the group's name from Campus Scouts to Carolina Campus Girl Scouts to increase its name recognition. And Gammill has plans for the future. The group will have a cookie sale in the Pit in the spring. And the members may go camping, do a campus service project and, in the long term, become part of a network of campus scout organizations, she said.



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